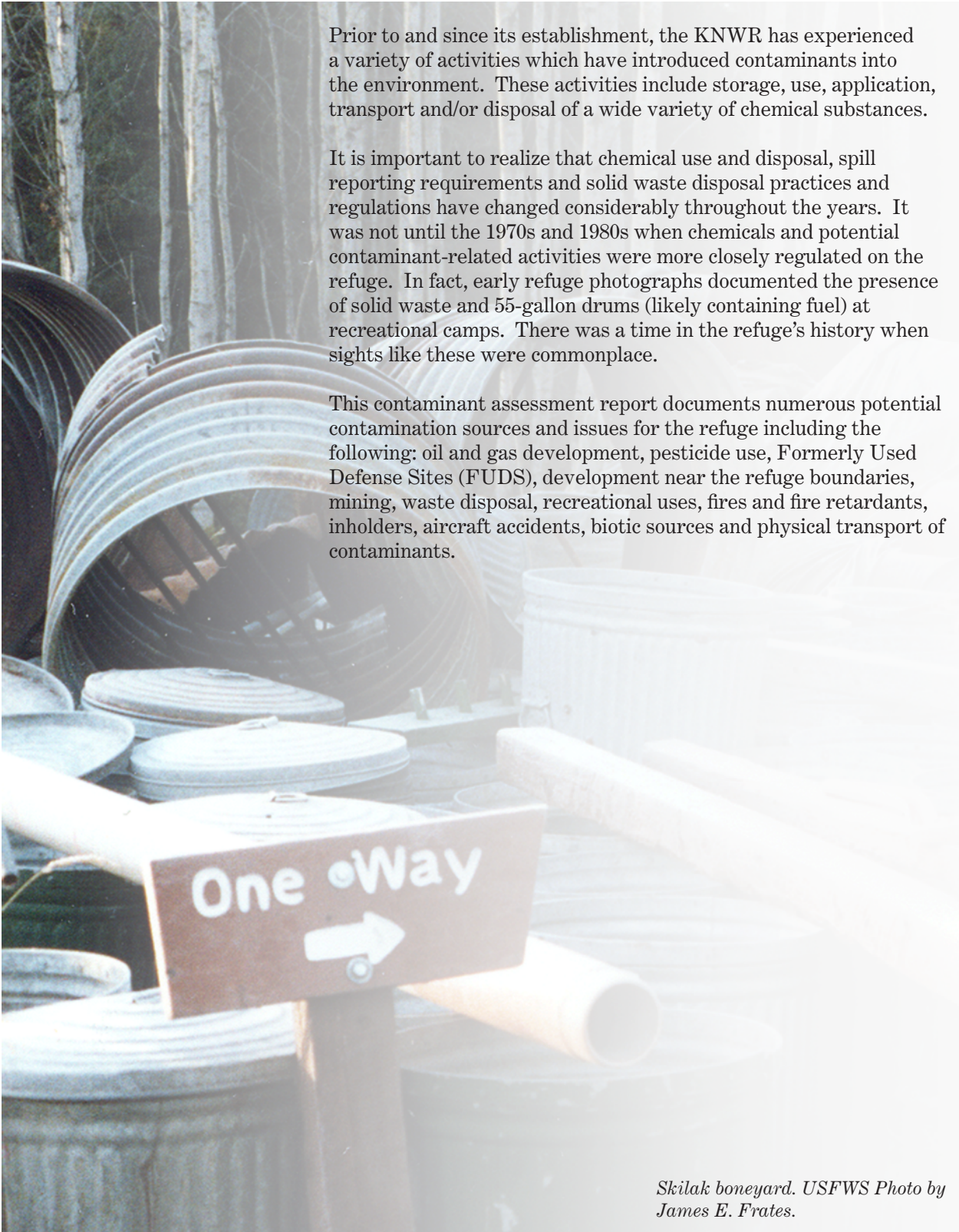


Contaminant Sources and Issues



Prior to and since its establishment, the KNWR has experienced a variety of activities which have introduced contaminants into the environment. These activities include storage, use, application, transport and/or disposal of a wide variety of chemical substances.

It is important to realize that chemical use and disposal, spill reporting requirements and solid waste disposal practices and regulations have changed considerably throughout the years. It was not until the 1970s and 1980s when chemicals and potential contaminant-related activities were more closely regulated on the refuge. In fact, early refuge photographs documented the presence of solid waste and 55-gallon drums (likely containing fuel) at recreational camps. There was a time in the refuge's history when sights like these were commonplace.

This contaminant assessment report documents numerous potential contamination sources and issues for the refuge including the following: oil and gas development, pesticide use, Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS), development near the refuge boundaries, mining, waste disposal, recreational uses, fires and fire retardants, inholders, aircraft accidents, biotic sources and physical transport of contaminants.

Skilak boneyard. USFWS Photo by James E. Frates.